

EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW
- EVERY KNEE!

There are many portions of the Bible giving vivid pictures of the beautiful plan of the Lord for the utmost benefit of His children on earth, and in these He has also told just how He is going to accomplish exactly what He has planned and provided for. He promises He will do this for His children in spite of the immense opposition which He foresaw the human race would bring to bear against its own ultimate good. No wonder the opposition angers Him, standing in the way of His best for His children as it does. What good human parent would just stand by and smile as his own children move about hurting and destroying each other and themselves. Nations and outright criminals do it on the physical level; others, including Christians, do it on the emotional level. The Lord has said He will not forever strive with humankind, but how merciful and compassionate He has been all through the past ages. Yet how will you and I fare when He comes to crack down?

In Isa. 45, there is prophecy which was initially to prepare the remnant of His then Chosen People for their move out and away from Babylon and into Jerusalem, the habitation in which there would or should be the experiencing of God's peace with man. The move was to be enabled by Cyrus, whose name means sun-ruler. Those details are now all most assuredly historical, yet repeatedly it has been written that all these things are for our instruction, especially for us who are alive at the consummation of this series of ages since Adam.

Rev. 19:10, in a book given specifically for our time, and 1 Pet. 1:11 re-affirm that everything the Lord spoke was prophecy, much of it particularly for today. Therefore, the text of Isa. 45, written in about 750 B.C., 200 years before the reign of Cyrus, should be read as preparatory advice on the move of a remnant from the modern systems of "Babylon" and into the New Jerusalem above for

some and, for others, into the Jerusalem in Palestine when it is rebuilt after the horrors of World War III. Each move in our time is to establish an environment featuring God at peace with all making the move. Each move in our time will be enabled by the King of Kings typed by the Sun-ruler.

His plan is a glorious plan over-all, but to carry it through He must necessarily start with the initial condition of all of us in the Adam race. This prophecy to Isaiah pictures you and me beginning in the earth school as worthless, moist-clay pieces of ruptured earthen vessels in the forming process. Being useless, they are factually not worth keeping as they are; it is impractical and foolishness to try patching them together. A new vessel needs to be fashioned. (Jer. 18:4-6)

Note the subject in Isa. 45 is the forming of clay into a useful vessel. (:9) This earthenware refers to the physical body as the containing vessel for the "water" of the soul. The initial design was for a vessel that would contain pure water exclusively (only the pure in heart shall see God). But if the clay tears while being formed, the product from the Potter's wheel must be recycled.

The earthen vessel being formed into perfection became torn by Adam's deviation from God's exquisite plan for man's total well-being. The rupture brought by death has been inherited by all following in those deviations. At what we call death, this vessel has been cast aside as worthless in billions of instances. Because of the rupture, the "water" could not be held and was lost, in billions of cases. "The soul that sins shall die."

Jeremiah presented the same pattern when he quoted the Lord in saying, "My people have committed two evils. They have forsaken Me, the Fountain of Living Waters, and they have hewn, worked hard at building for themselves cisterns, ruptured cisterns which cannot hold water." "Be astonished and appalled, all in the heavenlies, be horrified and shocked, says the Lord." The initial design for the earthen vessel body is His master

piece, even the design He chose for His own incarnation. Yet look at what man has thought of His design and done with it! There is no rime or reason in it; it is the result of nothing but shortsighted, outright rebellion in selfishness. Appalling! (Jer. 2:13, 12)

Worse yet, along with this display of imbalance and immaturity is consistent second guessing the One who is at work in building the new "pot" for the delinquent spirit-child. Almost every loving caress to beautify the new vessel is rejected as an unwarranted disturbance of selfish "peace". Almost every detail of the building plan presented to man as the Faith is also second guessed and altered in a way to serve the selfishness of man.

"When the Son of Man arrives, will He indeed find the Faith on the earth?" "Shall the clay say to Him who fashions it, What are you making?, or Your work has no hands!" Spirit-led Paul quotes Isaiah thus: "Why have You made me this way?" The Septuagint reads: "What are You doing that You do, (it is) not work, nor does it have hands (useless)." Isa. 45:10 warns of woe to him who questions his Father about what is being brought into being for him (his benefit) and who also finds fault with the woman (typing the Faith) in which the new man is being formed.

Who has not engaged in these woe-begetting practices, and perhaps still does in measure, because we almost desperately insist on trying to do what we want to do, when we want to do it and in the way we want to go about it - doing what is right in our own eyes and missing the plan that does succeed. How else do we go about faulting the Father of all spirits, and re-processing the Faith, perhaps inadvertently? To the measure believers do not continuously live in Him in His plan for man's well-being, they place themselves out of contact with Him. Then they presume to say He is far away. With a straight face, even staunch Christians too often ask, Where is God in this that is befalling me?

Most Christians follow the crowd that does not know God into depending upon the provisions of socialistic Government, the protection of man-developed and man-sustained insurance, the protection offered by man's medical expertise, the problem solving skill of modern science, and, of course, the nest-egg of assets accumulated to extreme, just in case all else fails. Ignoring the truth that God does have His own mind, they dabble with His Word, the Faith, to make it read what was never intended. Thus they disavow the Law and most of the Testimony - and teach others to do likewise. (Isa. 8:20) Their faith departs from the Faith through incorporation of the creeds, traditions and special ideas of religionists trained to make them more comfortable - and kept.

"We are not under the Law, but under Grace (another word for a magic wand)." "Jesus loves us, so we have no problems." "It is God working within us all the while, both to will and to do His good pleasure, so I don't have to be responsible for anything - I'm a Christian!." "Christians are to do nothing in their own strength. They just turn it over to God." "Accept Jesus into your life and you will be saved" (no mention at all of any repentance). "Being saved when Jesus comes, you will be taken to heaven with all Church members, to be at Jesus' side forever" (ignoring a wealth of the Lord's comment on preparation, overcoming and readiness - let alone the physical impossibility for each of billions to be at His side).

The foregoing statements are drawn from the Epistles. Even the teaching in them needs to be measured against the Standard of the Law and the Testimony. Paul admitted seeing indistinctly; his writings do contain errors not too hard to find. So do the texts of the Epistles of Peter, James, John and Jude. Because of the nature of these writings, especially Paul's, man's church has majored in the Epistles. Since 300 A.D., when the Church sold its body to the State, man's church has rejoiced in them. Why? Because it is so easy to

use their words to support whatever teaching any of the denominations or splits have settled upon.

How many divisions of man's church there are, each having its own different persuasion, yet all simultaneously claiming theirs is founded on the identical writings! And the huge dragon is cast down when the Firstfruits are taken up, he who is called Satan, he who at this end of our age has seduced all of humanity the world over. (Rev. 12:9) When the Son of Man comes again, will He indeed find the Faith on the earth? (Lk. 18:8) Anyone can well afford to be very cautious with whatever has been or may yet be offered by the religious from the Epistles!*

Most who wear the Christian label want little to nothing to do with what they call the fanatical approach to God. Therefore, God will not hold back The Great Tribulation much longer. With it, He will effectively motivate a different balance in Christian living, thinking and desiring, through the demonstrated contrast between the results from practicing a faith and the Faith. Any Christian can read the promise of God Who does not change His mind. "And the Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in every work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, of your cattle and of your land (your livelihood), for good..., if you conform to His plan and if you turn (repent) to the Lord your God (Keeper) with all your heart (desire) and with all your soul (whole being)... This is not too difficult for you, nor is it far off (in its attainment)! The Word (including the presence of Jesus Christ) is very near you ... so you can do it! ... I call heaven and earth to witness this day... that I have set before you life and death...; therefore, choose life!" (Deut. 30:9-11, 14, 19)

Thus says the Lord, ... I know the thoughts and plans I have for you, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for harm, to give you hope in your final outcome." (Jer. 29:11) "So again have I purposed in these days (of the Lord's return) to do good to Jerusalem (dwelling place of

God's peace with man) and to the house of Judah (praise of Him). Fear not!" (Zech. 8:15) Therefore, thus says the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, Who has formed the things to come, "Ask Me (not other men) about what concerns My sons and command Me concerning the work of My hands" (in every emergency, what you cannot handle). Call to Me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things which you have not known." (Isa. 45:11, Ps. 50:15, Jer. 33:3)

Inescapably, the thread all the way through these promises is total and exclusive separation, a "fanatic" separation from all in man's environment which can compete with or detract from concentrating on cooperation within, thinking about, desiring only and experiencing more and then yet more of His plan. Verily, verily, doing this with others constantly, or even almost constantly, enables a constructive influence to operate in both directions. Without doing this, it approaches being impossible to maintain that viable "fanaticism". Selah! (You should think about that!)

Of course, this is the potential advantage to all in a well-managed Christian community. Needless to say, it can be done outside the perimeter of such a community, but all of the same principles still apply. You do what you do in a truly Christian framework with others of like mind, or you risk being pulled out by the offerings of others not at all of the same mind. You work at arranging the cooperation with others of like mind in following Christ's full plan, or you will despair of reaching the promised results of joy-filled success in well-being, across the board. You work at working together in fully exploring all of Gods' plan, or you ultimately drift apart, each into his own exclusive niche. In such an exclusive niche, guess Who gets excluded.

In Isa. 45:7, the Lord says, "I prepare or supply the Light and build or plant (in that which is yet) dark. I build peace (well-being) and I plant or leave room for evil or harmful (men). I am the

Lord who prepares all these things." God is Spirit and the Father of all human spirits. He is the sower of Life, and death cannot touch Him. What the Lord prepares, He does through process, not by mysterious magic. Of course, the pattern cited here applies to many phases of the Lord's work. To the somewhat matured human, He supplies Light through His Word, clarified by the Holy Spirit. That Light from Him is in contrast to darkness. The Light is for enlightenment on the process by which Life in both soul and physical body garments can be extended throughout time. That is the prime objective in this phase of earth schooling, nothing else!

Deviation from the Lord's process spoils it and death results for one or both garments. As Light connects with Life, so darkness with death. God did not create darkness; He created the plan by which you and I can live. Unawareness of the plan is darkness; the human race brought that upon itself. Refusal of the plan is darkness; that came through the teachings of man's Church. Therefore, we perceive darkness has not come from God's creative hand; He builds or plants or begets Light in that darkness. What a glorious contrast!

Behold the loving Father's outreaching mercy, even toward those who have been rejecting Him, in part or in all. You and I will be restricted to no less mercy than the Lord showed David during his many deviations, if we too will turn again to the Light and endeavor to better live within the whole plan. With enlightenment into the plan for Life, our Father builds peace - the peace from God who is not willing to lose any. Sometimes the building takes much time, because of too little cooperation from the spirit child. Nevertheless, the Lord continues to strive with him, until He wins. Right human fathers would do no less. How wonderful!

By the same reasoning, it is seen that God does not create evil, meaning harm and trouble. If He wanted to, He would not need to do so. Mankind has been quite adept at filling the world full of it,

bringing more evil into being than anybody. We are clearly told, there is no evil in God! In the world's system, you will experience tribulation, even Great Tribulation, but one fully in Christ's plan knows no tribulation whatsoever; He has overcome the world! However, the wise and provident Lord does His planting and building among evil men, leaving room for them, so the contrast of righteousness (total conformance to the Life plan) against the backdrop of evil becomes a benefit to both the righteous and the evil. Why do you not choose Life, asks the Lord. Concentrate your whole being on moving toward Life and the Lord will dote on you in His mercy and compassion.

Our Lord said a good tree cannot produce evil or worthless fruit. Obviously, He is the primary type of the good tree, from which man can and some do receive excellent fruit. But all trees are not good. All trees were good, but then deviation from the Lord's plan for Life changed the trees and they became not good. Only through receiving and cooperating with what is structured in His good fruit can any man again become a good tree. Whatever selfish, unregenerate man does outside of Gods' plan, whether or not in ignorance, brings eventual harm to others. What a Christian does outside of God's plan, even in ignorance, so often brings evil even against himself, unless the Lord in His mercy intervenes. (Isa. 3:9-11)

Departure from the plan carries built-in failure, with calamity. But in His mercy, the plan is carefully devised to transform the worthless into treasure of transcending value. That is not possible without following through in His process. Anything else misses the mark and the goal. The need today is for good trees in-the-making around us, to eliminate infection from the bad. However, there are more bad ones than good out there, so careful and thorough selection of intimate company is vital.

Because mankind is still so stubborn and myopic, it is also the Lord's plan to rain down His

righteousness from the heavens by means of the returning glorified Firstfruits teachers. (Isa. 45:8, 30:19-22) Later on, the glorified members of the Harvest Company will add their help. On earth, continuously after the Tribulation, will be the resurrected 60 fold Christians in immortal bodies. Thereby, all of mankind, during and beyond the Tribulation period, is to be caught in a righteousness squeeze-play. Blessed are those who will have prepared themselves through separation from compromise and then by full adherence to the plan for Life. They will not be among the unemployed - ever!

Blessed also are the poor in spirit. (Matt. 5:3) Why are the poor in spirit blessed? Who are the poor in spirit? This cannot refer to someone having less human spirit than others; he is that spirit. It cannot refer to someone having little of the Holy Spirit; that lack could not be a blessing at all. We should not think it is a blessing of someone who is not inebriated - though there is some blessing in that. In Luke 6:20, it reads: Blessed are you poor. This would not be a warning against excessive material acquisitions; that was the lesson of the Old Testament Law in its dealings with outward influences and responses.

The New Testament work involves inward influences and inner control. Today, money and material possessions are not the main hindrances to blessing. Generally speaking, even the poorest of the people in Christian nations possess more things and material advantages than the rich under the Law ever dreamed of. The hindering "riches" of today is self-esteem in intellectual achievement - inner riches. This Luke 6 passage is not as complete as in Matt. 5, yet adequate because Jesus was talking about spiritual influences. It is the human spirit which is behind the exercise of the will, whether or not that is a following through on whims of the soul. Therefore, Jesus' words would not indicate a lack of activity of the human spirit. There remains only one other avenue of applica-

tion, the quality of human spirit activity. Poor in spirit would have to describe a small measure of selfishness or self-will. The poor in spirit would be those not proud, but repentant, so "poor" they would be begging for help in spiritual growth and maturing.

We can read in Isa. 45:14 that when the Lord has raised up His Church in righteousness to administer the building of His Kingdom on earth, Egypt (the world order) will furnish support. Even Ethiopia (the darkness of unbelievers) will contribute to the needs, along with the Sabeans, men of stature. The Sabeans are reported to be of the south, from Sheba. South speaks of soul and Sheba means oath. Being men of stature in the soul who are under oath may well refer to important support of the 30 fold believers as they come toward Jesus and His Kingdom.

Seeing the Kingdom in operation would lead to a recognition of who God is and likely into further repentance. This is a pattern which should be featured today in the operation of Christian families and assemblies, they being types of the developing Kingdom. They should attract support with the benefits of truths being lived and bring into focus an eventual recognition of God among the "Sabeans" of today, leading into repentance. But it is only the working together in corporate concentration on thinking, breathing and living God's plan into Life that brings permanent results - something to consider.

Isa. 45:15 reads: Truly You are God, who hides Himself. Yet in :19, He says, "I have not spoken in secret in a corner of the land of darkness... I broadcast the things that are right." The Septuagint Old Testament may therefore have a more accurate transcript of what the Sabeans will be saying: "Truly You are God - yet we knew it not - O God of Israel, the Savior." Those called by Christ's name are assigned to cooperate in the plan which fashions a new man for all to see. The life of that new man is not to be

hidden, but is to attract attention by its contrast with the unregenerate's darkness. The new man becomes and proclaims the proof of the Lord's plan, proof which cannot be resisted by other men, if and when they think.

Isa. 45:18 tells us that the Lord designed and brought into being the human brain and mind (that above - the heavens of man). He formed the physical body of the earth and He made it not to be a worthless waste, but to be continuously inhabited. He is the One in charge, no one else. He does not ask for cooperation with fruitless labor; He pays just wages for all good work accomplished. (Rev. 22:12) Yet the measure of man's dependence on the modern material idols (the attractive promises of socialistic government, the "safeguards" offered by society, and the "hedges" nurtured by cold and lukewarm men) is the measure of his inability to preserve even status quo in days just ahead.

It is the Lord who before-time is able to alert all who will listen, because His contemporary work is thoroughly righteous and wholly integrated into the complete plan. He is Truth, therefore Life, and therefore strength upon which man can profitably trust. His plan for Life is the only one ever able to prove itself as being of God throughout history. That plan in the Bible contains running proof, using names of real people, actual places, specific dates, pinpointed prophecy and specific fulfillment. No other "faith" has such proof; none other can or attempts to provide it. "Look to Me for preservation... for I am the Mighty One and there is no other." (Isa. 45:22)

One by one, more men in our day will begin to see Truth and, in time, appreciate its value, even in the midst of mankind's continued rejection for yet a little while. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Father of all spirits and He is faithful to His father-responsibility to correct as necessary and to guide as many as are ready to cooperate. "I have sworn by Myself, the Word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness and shall not rebound (but

penetrate), that unto Me every knee shall bow (in conformance) and every tongue shall swear (in co-operation). That is His promise for eventually completing His plan for each one of His children. But the plan itself calls for smooth working within family and Church assembly, each member joyfully taking on his proper support of the others.

Therefore, only in the Lord shall anyone ever (accurately) say, I have righteousness (His plan in operation into Life) and strength to complete it. To Him, eventually, shall come all, even those who have been incensed against Him, and they shall come ashamed of their previous wilfully misdirected lives. In the Lord alone shall all the seed of Israel (those who would rule with God) be justified triumphantly! (Isa. 45:22-25)

Don't wait; work!

Don't let your assembly wait; work!

C. Gordon Wolcott

Listen in silence (without argument) before Me, O islands (people raised up out of the waters of soul). Let the people gather and renew their strength. Let them come near; then let them speak. Let us come near together for an evaluation. Who has roused up the righteous One from the east (with wisdom) whom He calls to His service, subdues the nations before Him and makes Him King over Kings? He gives them as dust to His sword and as driven straw to His bow. He is pursuing them and is passing safely, unhindered, even by a way where His feet have not come before (through such as you)

Who has prepared and done this, inviting and guiding the generations from the beginning? I, the Lord (the One in control), the first (the first begotten by the Father) - and with the last; I am He! The "islands" see and are fearing. The ends of the earth are trembling. They draw near and are arriving together! (Isa. 41:1-5)